

iris region, the composite pattern comprising at least 3000 distinct elements, each of at least 20% of the distinct elements being within 10 μm of an adjacent one of the elements.

*at
Concluded*

44 (new). A colored contact lens as set forth in claim 43 wherein each of at least 30% of the elements are within 10 μm of an adjacent one of the elements.

Remarks

Applicant submits that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan H. Norman, Reg. No. 32,285
Thompson Coburn LLP
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 552-6284
(314) 552-7284 Facsimile

July 26, 2002

APPENDIX

A marked-up version of the claims is shown below.

1 (amended). A method comprising:

providing a contact lens having a pupil region and a generally annular-shaped iris region surrounding the pupil region, the iris region being adapted to at least partially cover a wearer's iris when the wearer is wearing the contact lens;

providing a printer assembly having an inkjet print head;

using the inkjet print head to deposit at least one colorant on a transfer surface; and

transferring the at least one colorant from the transfer surface to [using the printer
assembly to deposit at least one colorant on] the iris region of the contact lens in a manner to
alter the appearance of the iris of the wearer when the wearer is wearing the contact lens.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

3 (amended). A method as set forth in claim [2] 1 wherein:

using the inkjet print head to deposit at least one colorant on a transfer surface causes
the at least one colorant to be deposited on the transfer surface in a first colorant pattern; and

transferring the colorant from the transfer surface to the iris region of the contact lens
causes the at least one colorant to be deposited on the iris region of the contact lens in a
second colorant pattern.

5 (amended). A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein the second colorant pattern is a mirror image of the first colorant pattern.

7 (amended). A method as set forth in claim [2] 1 wherein the transfer surface comprises a pad printing pad.

Please cancel claims 8 and 9 without prejudice.

10 (amended). A method [as set forth in claim 1] comprising:

providing a contact lens having a pupil region and a generally annular-shaped iris region surrounding the pupil region, the iris region being adapted to at least partially cover a wearer's iris when the wearer is wearing the contact lens;

providing a printer assembly having an inkjet print head;

using the printer assembly to deposit at least one colorant on the iris region of the contact lens in a manner to alter the appearance of the iris of the wearer when the wearer is wearing the contact lens;

wherein the step of using the printer assembly to deposit at least one colorant on the iris region of the contact lens comprises using the printer assembly to tilt the contact lens both laterally and longitudinally while depositing at least one colorant on the iris region of the contact lens.

Please cancel claims 11-21 without prejudice.

38 (amended). A colored contact lens as set forth in claim 31 wherein each of at least 25% of the elements [have] has a surface area no greater than 2000 square microns.

Please add the following new claims 43-44:

43 (new). A colored contact lens comprising a non-opaque pupil region, a generally annular-shaped iris region surrounding the pupil region and adapted to cover at least 80% of a wearer's iris when the wearer is wearing the contact lens, a multi-color composite pattern on the iris region, the composite pattern comprising at least 3000 distinct elements, each of at least 20% of the distinct elements being within 10 μm of an adjacent one of the elements.

44 (new). A colored contact lens as set forth in claim 43 wherein each of at least 30% of the elements are within 10 μm of an adjacent one of the elements.